

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01

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FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3128 IMMEDIATE

INFO THE HAGUE 372 IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0124

THIS CABLE BEING TRANSMITTED COURTESY AMEMBASSY CARACAS DUE
COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN CURACAO IN EFFECT SINCE FEB. 17.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, ELAB, PINS, PINT, NA

SUBJECT: LAYOFF OF 80 DRYDOCK COMPANY EMPLOYEES MAY PRECIPITATE
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES CABINET CRISIS

REF: CURACAO A-8 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. CURACAO DRYDOCK COMPANY APPLIED
MINLAB FEB. 14 FOR APPROVAL PLANNED LAYOFF 80 EMPLOYEES. REASON
GIVEN FOR LAYOFF WAS SLOW DOWN COMPANY'S OPERATIONS; NOT MENTIONED
WAS FACT THAT COMPANY CONSIDERS EMPLOYEES CONCERNED OF MARGINAL
TO NEGATIVE UTILITY.

2. FYI. UNDER NA'S CONTROVERSIAL "LEY DE RETIRO", MASS DIS-
MISSALS OF EMPLOYEES, EVEN IN CASES WHERE COMPANIES GOING OUT
OF BUSINESS--SEE REF AIRGRAM-- REQUIRES APPLICATION TO MINLAB
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WHICH AUTHORIZED INVESTIGATE CIRCUMSTANCES
IN EACH CASE, AND GRANT OR WITHHOLD APPROVAL. END FYI.

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3. LEFTIST LEANING LABMIN WILSON (PAPA) GODETT, LEADER OF
FRENTE OBRERO FACTION OF GOVERNMENT, AND STILL PRESIDENT DOCK-
WORKER'S UNION, PREDICTABLY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO PROPOSED LAYOFF.
HE FIRST SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY GNA FINANCIAL SUBSIDY TO COMPANY
TO MAKE POSSIBLE RETENTION OF WORKERS, WHICH COMPANY REJECTED
AS INAPPROPRIATE. HE NEXT DEMANDED AT FEB. 18 MEETING
MINITERIAL COUNCIL, THAT GOVERNMENT INTRODUCE "ONTSLAG STOP"

LEGISLATION, BARRING ALL LAYOFFS FOR PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS TO ONE YEAR. TRANSPORT MIN VOGES LED OPPOSITION THIS PROPOSAL AND WAS SUPPORTED BY ENTIRE COUNCIL WITH EXCEPTION, OF COURSE, OF FRENTE MEMBERS. LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY--CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION, EXPLODED IN FIRESTORM OF PROTEST WHEN GODETT PROPOSAL BECAME KNOWN. GODETT NOW STATES HE WILL RAISE MATTER AGAIN AT FEB. 25 MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING, AND THREATENS WITHDRAW FRENTE FROM GOVERNMENT IF MEASURE NOT ACCEPTED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. ACCORDING LATEST REPORT ON CURACAO DRYDOCK COMPANY SITUATION, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES SECURITY SERVICE--NASS, GNA INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, HAS PICKED UP RUMORS OF POSSIBLE SABOTAGE TO VESSELS NOW IN DRYDOCK BY SOME OF THE WORKMEN MARKED FOR LAYOFF, (BUT STILL ON JOB PENDING MINISTRY DECISION). NASS, HOWEVER, BELIEVES IT HAS IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL SABOTEURS, AND HAS SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. END CONFIDENTIAL.

5. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, A CURACAO COURT FEB. 22 FINED GEOPHYSICAL SERVICE INC., DEFUNCT SUBSIDIARY OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, NAF. 20,000 (\$11,000) FOR LAYING OFF ITS 500 EMPLOYEES LAST JUNE, WITHOUT AWAITING THE REQUIRED APPROVAL OF MINLAB AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. SEE REF. AIRGRAM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: CABINET CRISIS OR NO CABINET CRISIS, THE DECISION IS UP TO GODETT. THE ONLY CREDIBLE LEVERAGE AVAILABLE PRIMIN EVERTSZ IS THREAT THAT IN EVENT GNA CABINET FALLS, THEN NVP-U (EVERTSZ' PARTY) WILL WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT OF FRENTE IN ISLAND COUNCIL WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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FERE WITH FRENTE'S PROGRAM, AND POSSIBLY PRECIPITATE ISLAND ELECTIONS THIS YEAR AS WELL. FOREGOING, HOWEVER, IS MAINLY SPECULATION. SHOULD GODETT LEAVE GOVERNMENT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT EVERTSZ COULD OR WOULD ATTEMPT TO FIND TWO ADDITIONAL VOTES NECESSARY TO CONTINUE MAJORITY OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT. SINCE ELECTION DAY, JUNE 17, IS ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN 3 MONTHS AWAY, IT IS MOST LIKELY CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED, IN WHICH CASE PRESENT MINISTERS WOULD REMAIN AT POST, GODETT COULD CLAIM TO HAVE BROUGHT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT, "IN DEFENSE OF WORKERS' INTEREST, ETC., ETC.", WHILE CONTINUING TO DRAW HIS MINISTERIAL PAY. IT WOULD REMAIN TO BE SEEN WHETHER VOTERS WOULD SEE THROUGH THIS MANEUVER ON JUNE 17. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

HANSON

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Message Attributes

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